



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	03-18-03	Interpretation #	03-020
Topic	Occupant Load v Ambulatory Status		
Code Section(s)	Table 10-A, California Building Code (2001 ed)		
Requested by	Vicky Shapiro 3625 Beverly Ridge Dr Sherman Oaks, CA. 91423		

1. ***California code requires 35 square feet per person in a Group, Division 3 occupancy. In a building having 3500 square feet and occupancy of 100 people, does the statement of law above require a certain percentage of ambulatory and/or non-ambulatory people built into this hypothetical situation (i.e. 3500 sq. ft. and 100 people occupancy)?***

No. The requirements of Table 10-A are used to determine exiting requirements, and do not relate to ambulatory or non-ambulatory status of individuals occupants. There are other specific provisions of code that are applicable to non-ambulatory persons. Please refer to the accessibility requirements found in Chapter 11 of the California Building Code (2001 ed).

2. ***How do ambulatory or non-ambulatory occupant ratios play a role with the 35 square feet per person requirement?***

Ambulatory status does not play a role in determining the occupant load. Occupant load requirements are based solely on the building's occupancy type.